



# ***CITY COUNCIL***

## ***Meeting Agenda***

***REGULAR MEETING  
HYBRID MEETING***

***MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021  
at the conclusion of the COW Meeting***

*The Regular Meetings of City Council are filmed and can be viewed LIVE while the meeting is taking place or at your convenience at <https://www.readingpa.gov/content/city-council-video>. All electronic recording devices must be located behind the podium area in Council Chambers and located at the entry door in all other meeting rooms and offices, as per Bill No. 27-2012.*

**Due to COVID-19, the public is prohibited from attending the meeting. To attend the meeting via our virtual app, please log in using the link below or watch on Facebook Live @ ReadingCityCouncil.**

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join.

<https://readingpa.zoom.us/j/96187360374?pwd=ajBHbzI0eEpSRm9LSmVjTnErakFXZz09>

Passcode: 970202

Or One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,96187360374#,,,,\*970202# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,96187360374#,,,,\*970202# US (Chicago)

Or join by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 961 8736 0374

Passcode: 970202

**Public comment can be offered by telephone or virtual meeting application by registering with the City Clerk at 610 655 6205 by noon on the day of the business meeting or in writing through an email to [council@readingpa.gov](mailto:council@readingpa.gov) or a letter mailed to the Council Office clearly marked "Public Comment". Written public comment must be submitted by 4:00 pm on day of the meeting to allow time to distribute the**

comment submitted. The written comment received will be read into the record. Comments posted in Zoom Chat and on Facebook are not considered public comment and a response may not occur.

## **1. OPENING MATTERS**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

### **B. INVOCATION:** Crystal Tapia, Feet on the Street Youth Ministry

### **C. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

### **D. ROLL CALL**

**E. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** An Executive Session on the recycling litigation was held at the conclusion of the July 12<sup>th</sup> COW in accordance with Sunshine Act Title 65, Section 708 A 4

## **2. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Commendation recognizing Urban Agriculture Week – *accepted by the Berks Conservation District*

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA MATTERS:**

*Due to COVID-19 also known as the Coronavirus the public speaking requirements have been modified. Public comment can be offered by telephone or virtual meeting application by registering with the City Clerk at 610 655 6205 by noon on the day of the business meeting or in writing through an email to [council@readingpa.gov](mailto:council@readingpa.gov) or a letter mailed to the Council Office both clearly marked “Public Comment”. Written public comment must be submitted by 4:00 pm on day of the meeting to allow time to distribute the comment submitted. The written comment received will be read into the record. Comments posted in Zoom Chat and on Facebook are not considered public comment and a response may not occur.*

*All remarks must be directed to Council as a body and not to any individual Council member or public or elected official in attendance. Any comment that is personally offensive or impertinent will not be read into the record. Comments on agenda matters are limited to 5 minutes in length and comments on non-agenda matters are limited to 3 minutes in length.*

## **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

**A. AGENDA:** Meeting of July 26, 2021

**B. MINUTES:** July 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, and approving the summations of discussion from the July 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> COW meetings and the June 19<sup>th</sup> Nomination Committee meeting

## **5. Consent Agenda Legislation**

*The Consent Agenda is designed to provide efficient approval of non-controversial legislation that does not require discussion/debate by giving approval via acclamation when the meeting agenda is approved. The President of Council will call Council’s attention to the list of Consent Agenda legislation at the*

*meeting before action is taken, which allows Council to remove a piece of legislation for separate consideration.*

**A. Resolution** – authorizing the Managing Director to sign and submit the attached “Traffic signal Maintenance Agreement”, to submit future modifications to the attached Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, and to submit future Applications for Traffic Signal Approval to PennDOT

**B. Award of Contract** – for the Angelica Park ADA Improvements Project to Columbia Excavating, Berwick, PA in the amount of \$162,986.21

**C. Award of Contract** – for the Pagoda Access Modifications Project to close the Pagoda parking lot to vehicular traffic during nighttime hours and maintain two-way traffic on Skyline Drive to Barwis Construction, Birdsboro, PA in the amount of \$160,344.00

**D. Resolution** – appointing Donna Reed as the Council representative to the America250PA Berks County Commission

**E. Resolution** – authorizing the purchase of a 1 stakebody with chassis for the Public Works Parks Division from Manderbach Ford in the amount of \$85,034.84

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Written report attached.

## **7. REPORT FROM OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR**

Written report attached.

## **8. REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS**

Electrician’s Examining Board – Jeff Bower, Electrical Inspector

## **9. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**A. Ordinance 54-2021**– amending the City Code by adding a new Chapter 433 Public Art and to establish a process for the City to consider public art projects that will effectively enliven neighborhoods and create outcomes such as safety, livability, walkability, health, and economic development in City neighborhoods ***Introduced at the June 28 regular meeting; Advertised on July 5; Tabled at the July 12 regular meeting***

**B. Bill 55-2021** – amending Administrative Code Section 5-208 Rules of Procedure by defining a quorum and remote participation at meetings ***Introduced at the July 12 regular meeting; Advertised July 19<sup>th</sup>***

**C. Bill 56-2021** – amending Administrative Code Section 5-209 Public Participation by providing citizens with the ability to continue to submit written public comment  
***Introduced at the July 12 regular meeting; Advertised July 19<sup>th</sup>***

**D. Bill 57-2021** – establishing a No Parking Zone on the north side of the 200 block of Chestnut St to eliminate traffic concerns at the Remcon building ***Introduced at the July 12 regular meeting; Advertised July 19<sup>th</sup>***

**E. Bill 58-2021** – directing the County Board of Elections to place a referendum on the 2021 General Election Ballot to eliminate Charter Section 1110 Recall of Elected Officials as the State Supreme Court has determined that local recall provisions are unconstitutional due to the removal process for elected officials provided in the State Constitution  
***Introduced at the July 12 regular meeting; Advertised July 19<sup>th</sup>***

**F. Bill 59-2021** – directing the County Board of Elections to place a referendum on the 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Charter Section 1204 Amendments by making the correct citation to State Statute Title 53, Subchapter C Amendment of Existing Charter or Optional Plan through the County Board of Elections ***Introduced at the July 12 regular meeting; Advertised July 19<sup>th</sup>***

## **10. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

**A. Ordinance** – amending City Code Chapter 23 Boards and Commissions, Part 1201 Downtown Revitalization Public Private Partnership, Section 23-201 authorization by replacing the DID Chair with the City of Reading Designated Downtown Coordinator

**B. Ordinance** – directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before city voters on the 2021 General Election Ballot which would amend the City of Reading Home Rule Charter by eliminating the requirement for the City's Public Works Director to be an engineer

## **11. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution** – making a \$3M contribution to the Convention Center to assist with the capital needs for the Convention Center and the SPAC

**B. Resolution** – appointing Michael McDevitt to HARB

**C. Resolution** – appointing Pamela Gockley to the Shade Tree Commission

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS**

*Please see public speaking rules on second page*

### **13. COUNCIL BUSINESS/COMMENTS**

### **14. COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

#### **Monday, August 2**

*Nominations & Appointments Committee – 4 pm*

*Committee of the Whole – 5 pm*

#### **Monday, August 9**

*Committee of the Whole – 5 pm*

*Regular Meeting – immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting*

#### **Monday, August 16**

*Nominations & Appointments Committee – 4 pm*

*Committee of the Whole – 5 pm*

#### **Tuesday, August 17**

*3 Conditional Use Hearings – 5 pm*

- *234 N 6<sup>th</sup> – Road to Damascus – temporary women’s shelter*
- *238 N 6<sup>th</sup> – Road to Damascus – boarding house*
- *700 Franklin – R&L Investments – rooming house*

### **16. ADJOURN**

**City of Reading City Council  
Hybrid Regular Meeting  
July 12, 2021  
At the conclusion of the COW Meeting**

Council President Waltman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:13 pm.

Due to COVID-19, the City was forced to change the meeting format to a hybrid format and prohibit the public's ability to physically attend the meeting and for public comment to be provided through alternative methods. Public comment can occur in writing (email message or letter clearly marked for public comment) or via a telephone or internet connection with the virtual app. Comments posted in Zoom Chat and on Facebook are not considered public comment and a response may not occur. City officials are participating remotely or in-person. The meetings can be viewed live on the BCTV MAC Channel 99, Facebook Live or on the City's website at <https://www.readingpa.gov/content/city-council-video>.

Nancy Lennert, of Transformative Solutions Network, gave the invocation.

All present pledged to the flag.

The executive sessions held at the conclusion of the July 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> COW were regarding the recycling litigation as per the Sunshine Act Title 65, Section 708 a 4.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Council President Waltman  
Councilor Sihelnik, District 1  
Councilor Ventura, District 3  
Councilor Marmarou, District 4  
Councilor Reed, District 5  
Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz, District 6 - electronically  
Asst. Solicitor A. LaMano – electronically  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Auditor M. Rodriguez – electronically

Council President Waltman stated that Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz has been excused from the meeting.

## **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Waltman announced that there was one (1) citizen who provided written public comment and one (1) speaking personally about agenda matters.

Councilor Reed read the public speaking rules adopted by Council ordinance.

**James Schlegel, North 5<sup>th</sup> St**, submitted a letter to the City (attached) from the Stadium Commission asking the City to provide \$3M towards the \$15M project at FirstEnergy Stadium to bring the stadium in compliance with the Major League Baseball (MLB) requirements which will keep the Fightin Phils in Reading. He noted Reading's long history with baseball and with the Philadelphia Phillies. He also noted the major capital improvements made to modernize the stadium, built during the 1950s, but retain the classic ballpark feel. He stated that the Fightin's are a regional economic driver and provide employment and internship opportunities to the people in our community. He asked Council to vote in support of the resolution to commit \$3M toward this project. He added that at Sunday's game, the Fightin's had the largest crowd in the minor league with 9000 Phans attending, many from outside Berks County.

Councilor Reed read a letter submitted from Craig Stein, managing partner of the Fightin Phils (attached)

**Craig Stein, no address provided**, committing \$3M from the R-Phils organization.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council President Waltman called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, and the minutes from the June 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, the meeting summaries from the COWs held on June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup> and the meeting summary from the July 6<sup>th</sup> Nominations meeting.

**The minutes from the June 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, the summations of discussion listed and the agenda were approved by acclimation.**

### **Consent Agenda**

*The Consent Agenda is designed to provide efficient approval of non-controversial legislation that does not require discussion/debate by giving approval via acclimation when the meeting agenda is approved. The President of Council will call Council's attention to the list of Consent Agenda legislation at the meeting before action is taken, which allows Council to remove a piece of legislation for separate consideration.*

**A. Resolution 68-2021**– authorizing conditional offers of employment for the hiring of the following as probationary patrol officers effective July 5, 2021: Zachary Dugan, Dean Ebersole, Paige Stuart and Emily Schreiner

**B. Resolution 69-2021** – authorizing the purchase of Class 8 Lifting Equipment for the Public Works Fleet Division from Hyde Villa Auto Parts in the amount of \$54,300.00

**C. Resolution 70-2021** – authorizing the submission of a PA DCED Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Program Grant application for the City of Reading 18W Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety Trail Project-Layer 2

**D. Award of Contract**– authorizing the purchase of 6 Patrol Police vehicles and 1 K-9 vehicle from New Holland Auto Group, a CoStars vendor, at the cost of \$348,765 from the CIP Fund

**E. Award of Contract** – authorizing the purchase of 1 Police Evidence vehicle from Whitmoyer Ford Inc., a CoStars vendor, at the cost of \$46,750 from the CIP fund

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

The mayor's chief of staff read the report provided in writing, in summary:

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- The Community Development Department has received confirmation from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PaDOH) that the City of Reading is an approved sub-recipient for the Lead Hazard Reduction program. The program requires staff training, developing a list of qualified vendors, lead inspectors, and a temporary family relocation program prior to being certified as a Lead Risk Assessor. In addition, the program budget will allow for the remediation of ten (10) housing units per unit.
- The CD Department presented on the topic of economic development in the City to the Alvernia University Board of Trustees and executive staff on behalf of Mayor Moran and the Administration. The presentation focused on the economic development impact of the CollegeTowne campus on local businesses when Alvernia opens its downtown campus in August 2021.
- The CD Department's Property Maintenance Division completed the following through May:
  - 568 residential inspections
  - 33 health inspections
  - 71 SWEEP inspections
  - 799 quality of life inspections
  - 2,873 notices of violation were issued for Code infractions

### **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION:**

- As of June 4<sup>th</sup>, HRC has:
  - 962 total rent and utility assistance applications were received (an addition of 11 applications since last reported).
    - 948 applications for rental assistance
      - 626 applicants were facing eviction
      - 236 applicants were not actively facing eviction
      - 86 applicants resided outside of the City but within the County.
    - 14 applications for utility assistance

### **LIBRARY:**



- The Reading Public Library launched Summer@RPL on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The program will continue until August 14<sup>th</sup>. Those interested can track their reading, earn points with ReadSquared, and discover live stream performances and virtual programs. For kids and teens, there are weekly live programs like Storytime, Science Lab, and more. The flyer is included at the end of this report contains more information for all ages.

#### **POLICE:**

- The Reading Police Department's Operation Cease Fire and other crime reduction initiatives continue to successfully assist in crime reduction in the City. By the end of May, the following reductions were seen:

- 13.2% reduction in UCR Part 1 crimes compared to 2020
- 21% reduction in UCR Part 1 crimes compared to 2019
- 36.4% reduction in UCR Part 1 crimes compared to 2018

The current crime reduction trend is driven by the following:

- 36% reduction in non-fatal shootings
- 30% reduction in robberies
- 25% reduction in burglaries
- 20% reduction in thefts
- RPD Chief Richard Tornielli met with RPD Diversity Task Force members to review diversity training provided to department members and plan future training programs and engagement. A special thank you to Kimberly Talbot, Human Relations Commission's Director, for facilitating the HRC's participation in the task force.
- The RPD will participate in a Homeless Task Force. Officers will work with the Hope Rescue Mission, COCA, and other organizations to identify and divert homeless individuals to appropriate assistance programs.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

The Public Works Department's River Road project was issued a construction contract Notice to Proceed in April, with projected completion planned for November 2023. Utility relocations are in progress. UGI and Met-Ed relocations are complete. Currently, Met-Ed is working on other utilities that are attached to their poles. The Reading Area Water Authority will complete their work along with the highway contractor. A groundbreaking ceremony is currently scheduled for the end of June.

- PW has completed street paving on St. Bernardine Street, McClellan Street, and Museum Road. After a subsurface investigation to detect any additional sinkholes, we are happy to announce no additional sinkhole activity was detected, and the paving on Penn Street can proceed.
- PW reports that the 11<sup>th</sup> and Pike spray pad is up and running. The Pandora Park spray pad is currently operating but requires further repair due to vandalism. The Front and Schiller spray pad is not currently working due to repair parts needed.

Councilor Reed inquired about the Quality of Life (QoL) tours being conducted by Property Maintenance and why there has not been outreach to District Councilors. Mr. Denbowski explained the process to develop the tours and he stated that there will be outreach to Council in the future. He stated that the tours focus solely on QoL issues for a four (4) day period to avoid scope creep.

Councilor Reed inquired if the administration will be providing a monthly QoL report to Council, as had been done by prior administrations. Mr. Denbowski stated that the reports are expected to begin again after the issue is reviewed by the management team.

Council President Waltman agreed with the need to include Council in the QoL tours and provide reports to Council.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Auditor highlighted the report attached to the agenda and distributed electronically. In summary:

### **Property Tax Revenue – Update as of June 30, 2021**

For this fiscal year, the City budgeted \$24,649,055.00 for Property Taxes which includes Property Tax Current, Property Tax Prior, Penalty/Interest, and Discount & Allowance. As of June 30, 2021, the City has collected \$20,384,838.23 or 83% of total amount budgeted. For the fiscal year of 2020, the City collected \$18,935,940.19 which is \$1,448,898.04 less than the revenue collected this year for the same period of time. However \$178,945.00 less was budgeted in revenue this year.

### **Business Privilege Tax and Business Privilege Tax Prior as of June 30, 2021**

For the current fiscal year, the City budgeted \$1,466,400.00 for Business Privilege Tax and as of June 30, 2021, the City collected \$1,095,263.70, or 75% of total amount budgeted. Although more revenue was collected in 2020 than this year for the same period of time, we have to consider that \$624,500.00 less in revenue was budgeted this year.

### **Payment in Lieu of Taxes as of June 30, 2021**

The payment in Lieu of Taxes is the revenue that the City receives from nonprofit organizations. For 2021, the City budgeted \$126,824.00 for this line item and as of June 30, 2021, the City has collected \$121,743.93. From this amount, \$105,537.15 was received from the Reading Housing Authority, \$10,000.00 from Charles Evans Cemetery and \$6,206.78 from Albright College.

### **2020 Audit – Update as of June 30, 2021**

On June 30, 2021, at the second Audit Committee Meeting Mr. Turtell from Herbein & Company provided an overview on the status of the 2020 audit. As a result of the ongoing audit, Mr. Turtell mentioned that the General Fund has a preliminary revenue surplus balance of \$2.9 million dollars. Also less findings has been addressed compared to prior year's audits. The first draft of this audit is expected to be completed by late-August and presented to City Council by early October.

## **REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS.**

Council President Waltman introduced Mr. Urena, Blighted Property Review Committee (BPRC) Chair. Mr. Urena stated that the Blighted Property Review Committee (BPRC) Ordinance, enacted in 2007, assigns the City Clerk to the BPRC to ensure that the process is well managed and continues through successive administrations. The City Clerk and Property Maintenance Supervisor work closely together to manage the hearing cycles. The BPRC continues to hold two (2) determination/certification hearing cycles per year for up to 50 properties that meet the required blight criteria as per State Statute. In March 2021, the BPRC decertified 23 properties that no longer meet the required criteria as per State Statute. Fourteen (14) properties were certified as blighted in May 2021. There are currently 382 properties remaining certified as blighted.

Since 2013 only six (6) certified properties were transferred to new owners. In 2013 an internal team prepared a handbook on the seven (7) acquisition processes available through tax sale, foreclosure, Conservancy, eminent domain, etc. The handbook can be used to identify the most expedient and least expensive acquisition method based on the property's individual situation. In 2016 the BPRC asked the administration to review these acquisition methods and consider advertising the availability of properties certified as blighted for redevelopment. In 2019 the administration presented Council and the public with a Housing Strategy that included a mechanism to focus on the remediation of the properties certified as blighted. Council set aside \$1M for blighted property remediation and that funding remains unspent.

The 2019 housing strategy did not contain a program that defines the use of these funds and the strategy was not approved. The BPRC continues to wait for the administration and Reading Redevelopment Authority to create a plan which would provide a process to transfer the certified properties to responsible ownership.

Councilor Sihelnik inquired about the next steps for the 382 properties that have been certified as blighted. Mr. Urena stated that the BPRC has been waiting to hear from the CD Department and Redevelopment Authority about their plan to remediate the blighted properties.

Council President Waltman stated that Council set aside the \$1M for blight remediation during the last administration and Council is willing to continue to provide funding for those efforts. He asked that this topic be added to an upcoming COW agenda.

Mr. Rivera stated that the Redevelopment Authority is currently working to develop a blight strategy.

Council President Waltman thanked Mr. Urena for the report and the BPRC members for their service.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

### Revisions requested at the May 17<sup>th</sup> COW

**Bill 40-2021** – Amending City Code Section 576-403, Parking Prohibited in Specific Areas by adding the requirement to park inside parking stall lines ***Introduced at the May 10 regular meeting***

**Bill 41-2021** – Amending City Code Section 576-416 by adding a fine of \$45 and additional 10 and 30 day penalties each in the amount of \$22.50 for parking outside the parking stall lines ***Introduced at the May 10 regular meeting***

**A. Ordinance 54-2021**– amending the City Code by adding a new Chapter 433 Public Art and to establish a process for the City to consider public art projects that will effectively enliven

neighborhoods and create outcomes such as safety, livability, walkability, health, and economic development in City neighborhoods

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to table Bill No. 54- 2021.**

**The motion to table Bill No 54-2021 was approved by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Marmarou, Reed, Ventura, Sihelnik, Waltman, President – 6**

**Nays: None – 0**

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

Councilor Sihelnik read the following ordinances into the record.

**A. Bill 55-2021** – amending Administrative Code Section 5-208 Rules of Procedure by defining a quorum and remote participation at meetings

**B. Bill 56-2021** – amending Administrative Code Section 5-209 Public Participation by providing citizens with the ability to continue to submit written public comment

**C. Bill 57-2021** – establishing a No Parking Zone in the 200 block of Chestnut St to eliminate traffic concerns at the Remcon building

**E. Bill 58-2021** – directing the County Board of Elections to place a referendum on the 2021 General Election Ballot to eliminate Charter Section 1110 Recall of Elected Officials as the State Supreme Court has determined that local recall provisions are unconstitutional due to the removal process for elected officials provided in the State Constitution

**F. Bill 59-2021** – directing the County Board of Elections to place a referendum on the 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Charter Section 1204 Amendments by making the correct citation to State Statute Title 53, Subchapter C Amendment of Existing Charter or Optional Plan through the County Board of Elections

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 71-2021**– making a \$3M commitment to the FirstEnergy Stadium project, contingent on the approval of funding from the County, State and Fightin Phils

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution 71-2021.**

Councilor Marmarou recalled his long history with the Stadium Commission and the need to retain this minor league team in Reading.

Councilor Reed urged Council to support this resolution as it will keep the team in Reading. She stated that she understands the pros and cons of this issue, noting the need to consider the City's long affiliation with baseball and the Philadelphia Phillies and the stadium's economic impact on this region.

Councilor Sihelnik noted her appreciation for the creation of a partnership to dedicate funding to this important project.

Council President Waltman echoed the comments made by his colleagues and the importance of the team and the stadium to the City and to the region, noting the importance of investing in this project for the City, County and R-Phils partnership.

**The motion to adopt Resolution 71-2021 was approved by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Cepeda-Freytiz, Marmarou, Reed, Sihelnik, Ventura, Waltman, President – 6**

**Nays: None - 0**

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Sihelnik stated that it is refreshing to step closer to in-person meetings and she thanked all who worked to make this first step possible. She noted the continued cleanups and activities in the South of Penn area and the importance of the 18<sup>th</sup> Wonder trail project and the continued work of the focus group. She commended the Youth Commission for their continued work.

Councilor Reed noted that this hybrid meeting is a first step toward post pandemic normalcy. She highlighted the Whacky Water Wednesday schedule. She urged the state legislature to repeal the 2017 fireworks law and described her experience in her Glenside neighborhood over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend.

Councilor Marmarou expressed the belief that the state legislature cares only about the sales tax revenue for fireworks and not for the impact the illegal use of fireworks has on communities.

Council President Waltman described his outreach to the State Senate and House leadership about the impact the legalization of fireworks sales has had across the Commonwealth. He agreed that while it is good to return to a more normal meeting setting, it is important to take small steps due to ongoing issues related to the pandemic.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

*Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*



Leaving a legacy to our children has been a critical part of what our stadium represents. A simple walk through the concourse of the stadium provides a rich history of baseball and the greats that have stepped between the lines, along with the relentless and tireless efforts of all who keep this well-oiled machine running outside the game itself. Honoring the past develops into an obligation to ensure that the future flourishes. Former players, coaches, umpires, scouts, and baseball executives echo their appreciation, excitement, and anticipation to come back to Reading. I wholeheartedly believe we as a community have an inherent responsibility to uphold this magical location that endlessly honors past stories with future dreams.

Members of City Council, on behalf of the entire Stadium Commission, I recommend that you unanimously approve the resolution providing \$3 million dollars for upgrades to First Energy Stadium. We recognize this is contingent upon additional funding from Berks County, The Reading Fightin Phils, and The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you for your time, personal reflection, and individual commitment to a reality that will yield boundless positives for the stadium we call our own.

Very Sincerely,  
The Stadium Commission  
James W. Schlegel - Chairman  
Rick Denunzio - Vice Chair/Secretary  
Rick Mountz  
Michael Schorn  
Gary Yeager, Jr.  
Strat Marmarou - City Council Liaison  
Cindy Castner - DPW Liaison

PROUD AA AFFILIATE OF THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES  
**SINCE 1967**

FirstEnergy Stadium, Home of the Reading Fightin Phils



FAMILY AFFORDABLE ENTERTAINMENT  
**ALWAYS FREE PARKING**



Official technology partner  
of the Fightin' Phils.

July 2, 2021

To Whom It May Concern –

The Reading Fightin Phils commit \$3,000,000 to the proposed stadium improvement project, contingent on the approval of project funding from the City of Reading for \$3,000,000, County of Berks for \$3,000,000, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$7,000,000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Stein".

Craig A. Stein  
Managing Partner, Reading Fightin Phils

**PROUD DOUBLE A AFFILIATE OF THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES SINCE 1967**

Reading Fightin Phils  
FirstEnergy Stadium  
P.O. Box 15050  
Reading, PA 19612-5050

**[WWW.FIGHTINS.COM](http://WWW.FIGHTINS.COM)**

Phone (610) 370-BALL  
Fax (610) 373-5868



Drafted by	
Sponsored by/Referred by	Public Works Deputy Director
Introduced on	July 28, 2021
Advertised on	N/A

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_-2021**

**Whereas**, the City of Reading wishes to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of the City's traffic signals and related traffic control devices, and

**Whereas**, all traffic signals and related traffic control devices in the City are operated under permits issued to the City by PennDOT, and

**Whereas**, PennDOT requires a written blanket agreement with the City for the operation and maintenance of all the City's traffic signal and devices known as the "Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement" (TSMA),

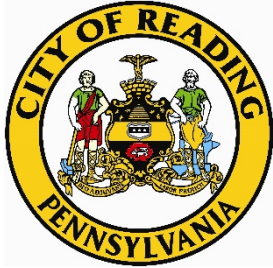
**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City of Reading City Council, Berks County, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that the Managing Director of the City of Reading be authorized and directed to sign and submit the attached "Traffic signal Maintenance Agreement", to submit future modifications to the attached Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, and to submit future Applications for Traffic Signal Approval either in writing or via electronic signature to the Department of Transportation, and to sign this Agreement on behalf of the City of Reading.

Adopted by Council \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Waltman, President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



# AGENDA MEMO

## DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Tammi Reinhart, Purchasing Coordinator  
**PREPARED BY:** Tammi Reinhart, Purchasing Coordinator  
**MEETING DATE:** July 14, 2021  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** July 26, 2021  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Awarding of Contract for the Angelica Park ADA Improvements Project

### RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is to award the contract for the Angelica Park ADA Improvements Project to Columbia Excavating, 7398 Columbia Blvd., Berwick, PA in the amount of \$162,986.21.

### BACKGROUND

The City received bids for the Angelica Park ADA improvements. The work shall consist of: Removal of existing features - Selective demolition of existing trail path and features within project area which are in conflict with the proposed design. This includes any excavation or rough grading required to achieve the project design. Proposed Outdoor Developed Areas - Installation of ADA accessible asphalt path - Installation of picnic area with tables and accessible walkways - Installation of benches placed along asphalt pathway.

### BUDGETARY IMPACT

The fees will be paid out of the Community Development Department's account code #32-10-00-4216, PJ # 34-07-71-103 F/S: HUD – CDBG 2020 \$75,000// Acct # 31-07-00-4216 PJ # 34-07-71-103 F/S: BRC – PRD – 23-142 \$75,000 // Acct # 34-07-71-4801 pj # 34-07-71-105 \$12,986.21.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

None

### SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Formal action by Council is required to award the contract at the July 26, 2021 meeting.

**RECOMMENDED BY**

Managing Director, Community Development Director, Finance Director, Controller and Purchasing Coordinator

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

Approve/Deny the recommendation for the Angelica Park ADA Improvements Project so that the contract be awarded to Columbia Excavating.

July 12, 2021

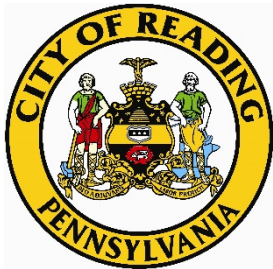
To the Mayor  
City Hall

Reading, PA

The following bids were opened and scheduled on June 21, 2021, with a Contract to be awarded or the bids rejected.

**THE BID FOR THE SCHLEGEL PARK POOL.**

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>TOTAL BID PRICE</b>
Columbia Excavating Berwick, PA	\$162,986.21
Construction Masters Services Reading, PA	\$186,569.25
Merut Construction Swoyersville, PA	\$188,217.42
Barwis Construction Birdsboro, PA	\$189,828.95



# AGENDA MEMO

## DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Tammi Reinhart, Purchasing Coordinator  
**PREPARED BY:** Tammi Reinhart, Purchasing Coordinator  
**MEETING DATE:** July 26, 2021  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** July 14, 2021  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Awarding of Contract for the Pagoda Access Modifications Project

### RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is to award the contract for the Pagoda Access Modifications Project to Barwis Construction, 30 Ridgeway Road, Birdsboro, PA 19508 in the amount of \$160,344.00.

### BACKGROUND

The Reading Pagoda project will allow Reading to close the Pagoda parking lot to vehicular traffic during nighttime hours and maintain two-way traffic on Skyline Drive. Improvements include the following:

- Conversion of an approximate 350' one-way segment of Skyline Drive to two-way traffic
- Reconfiguration of the Skyline Drive and Duryea Drive intersection, including removal of the existing island and installation of raised bump outs for an access gate
- Installation of three access gates to limit vehicular access to the parking lot
- Installation of Skyline Drive signs for the Pagoda and its closure from dusk until dawn
- Installation of appropriate signing and pavement markings
- Mill and overlay of the Pagoda parking lot, including restriping
- Installation of 25 MPH speed limit signs along Duryea Drive

### BUDGETARY IMPACT

The fees will be paid out of the Project Number 34-07-74-142, Account Code 34-07-74-4801 in the amount of \$160,344.00.

**PREVIOUS ACTION**

None

**SUBSEQUENT ACTION**

Formal action by Council is required to award the contract at the July 26, 2021 meeting.

**RECOMMENDED BY**

Managing Director, Acting Public Works Director, Deputy Public Works Director, Finance Director, Controller and Purchasing Coordinator

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

Approve/Deny the recommendation for the Pagoda Access Modifications Project so that the contract be awarded to Barwis Construction, LLC.

July 14, 2021

To the Mayor  
City Hall

Reading, PA

The following bids were opened with a Contract to be awarded or the bids rejected for The Pagoda Access Modifications Project.

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>TOTAL BID PRICE</b>
Barwis Construction 30 Ridgeway Road Birdsboro, PA 19508	\$160,344.00
H&K Group, Inc. P O Box 196 Skippack, PA 19474	\$193,801.00
Construction Masters Services LLC 150 Grings Hill Road Sinking Spring, PA 19608	\$198,493.00

Drafted by	City Clerk
Sponsored by/Referred by	City Council
Introduced on	July 26, 2021
Advertised on	N/A

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ -2021**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF READING APPOINTING DONNA REED AS THE COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AMERICA250PA BERKS COUNTY COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania legislature and the Governor created AMERICA250PA in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation's past, present and future; and

**WHEREAS**, AMERICA250PA hopes to engage ALL Pennsylvanians and ALL 67 counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects and events over the next five years by inspiring future leaders and celebrating all Pennsylvanians contributions to the nation over the last 250 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Reading City Council makes an appointment to this historic Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Reading City Council appoints Donna Reed as their representative to the America250PA Berks County Commission.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the Berks County legislative delegation and AMERICA250PA Commission.

Adopted by Council \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Waltman, President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk

Drafted By: Public Works  
Sponsored/Referred by: Charles M. Jones, Interim Director of Public Works  
Introduced on: 07/26/21  
Advertised on: N/A

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOW:

Authorizing the purchase of one (1) stakebody with chassis for the Public Works Parks Division from Manderbach Ford in the amount of \$85,034.84. Three quotes were received:

Bob Fisher Chevrolet Inc	\$81,271.64 – <i>did not meet bid specifications</i>
Berman Freightliner	\$99,411.11

Adopted by Council \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda A. Kelleher  
City Clerk



## Administrative Report Mayor Eddie Moran

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Abraham Amorós, Managing Director  
**PREPARED BY:** Maritza Loaiza, Special Assistant  
**MEETING DATE:** July 26, 2021  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** July 21, 2021

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### FROM THE MAYOR:

- Mayor Eddie Moran participated in a press event alongside HUD and HHS Department officials on June 29<sup>th</sup> to announce a joint agency effort to increase access to COVID-19 prevention and treatment services in underserved and vulnerable communities, such as HUD-assisted households and those experiencing homelessness. The event highlighted the availability of COVID-19 vaccines at federally qualified health centers like the Berks Community Health Center and how residents can access them.
- On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Moran participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pedestrian Safety and Bike Trail project. The City collaborated with 18<sup>th</sup> WONDER neighborhood group on this project, which utilizes a \$725,000 multi-modal grant award.
- Mayor Moran participated in a campaign with the Executive Director of Reading Public Library Bronwen Gamble, promoting the library as a fine-free library, which launched on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- On July 14<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor wed Nancy Hernandez & Miguel Balaguer. The ceremony took place in Council Chambers. Congratulations to the newlyweds.
- Mayor Moran toured the Animal Rescue League facility and met with the organization's leadership team on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The ARL described their work in the city, specifically their medical and animal control teams'. The Administration will work



with them on some outreach ideas to educate the community in canine parvovirus they have recently seen in the city and promote vaccination.

- On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Moran attended the Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading (R3) graduation ceremony. The ceremony was held in the County Services Center. The Mayor provided encouraging remarks for the graduates.
- Mayor Moran participated in the kick-off event for the back-to-school student and family vaccination effort at Southwest Middle School on July 16<sup>th</sup>. This event is a collaborative effort on behalf of the City, Reading School District, and Penn State Health Saint Joseph.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- The Community Development Department has completed the Lead Hazard Reduction grant application which was submitted as part of the 2022 Housing Urban Development grant (lead based paint LBP). The application was supported by 14 letters from various leaders in our community, such as Senator Toomey, Senator Schwank, Congresswoman Houlahan, State Representative Rozzi, and Guzman, in addition to County Commissioners and GRCA representatives.

The CD Department has also begun developing remediation plans with the assistance of the PA Department of Health (PaDOH). An initial budget was given of \$127,500 for lead removal and \$25,000 for healthy homes. A list of contractors that can conduct risk assessments, inspect and remediate was developed as part of this pilot program. We are also collaborating with Berks Community Health Center (BCHC) to inform families with children under the age of six, who have elevated blood levels to contact the City, and with Berks Community Action Program (BCAP) to assist in the weatherization of properties with known high lead concentration.

- The CD Department participated in a townhall meeting organized by Congresswoman Houlahan on behalf of the Administration. The town hall meeting focused on workforce development post-COVID-19. As an Opportunity Zone, the City shared initiatives that bridge the skills gap and how we are helping foster the entrepreneurship of small businesses.
- The Property Maintenance Division of CD is continuing to carry out education and enforcement action plans. As of July 15<sup>th</sup>, Property Maintenance Inspectors have issued 905 Notice of Violations, 157 Residential Rental Unit Inspections, and discovered 29 illegal rental units. In addition, Health Officers inspected 28 Health Service Commercial Facilities, and made two court appearances. These activities average to 42 actionable tasks per Property Maintenance Inspector.

#### **FINANCE:**

- The Finance Department Information Technology Division migrated all users to the new email server on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Shared mailboxes, public folders, and some resource mailboxes are still in the process of migration. It is in preparations to change to external IP address change next.

- The Finance Department IT Division is also beginning the testing phase for Microsoft 365.
- The Finance Department Citizen's Service Center mailed letters on July 14<sup>th</sup> to 1,810 properties indicating to the owners that the conversion to City trash service is underway. Currently, 805 accounts are due to expire at a later date. This number is expected to see a slight increase as we receive additional contracts that date back prior to the change. New letters will be sent as the expiration of those contracts approach.
- The Finance Department's CSC confirmed Keystone Collections mailed 2021 Per Capita Tax bills, which went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Finance Department's Accounting Division has begun working on the 2022 draft budget. All City departments and divisions have received templates to begin discussions.
- The Finance Department's Grant Division has the following grant updates:
  - USDOJ 2021 Justice Assistance Grant application:
    - The grant is for \$63,303 to be used towards Police Officer overtime hours concentrating on problem-oriented policing, special details, and officer training for National Incident-based Reporting System data collection and reporting, as required. The application submission is still expected to occur on August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The Finance Department held a kick-off meeting for the defined contribution plan scheduled to go live on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The City is working with Conrad Seigel on this plan, a mandatory Act 47 implementation item that will affect all newly hired non-uniform full-time employees. New employees will be automatically enrolled in a defined contribution plan, with a City match contribution that is vested after three years of service. Employees currently enrolled in the City's defined benefit plan will not be impacted.

#### **FIRE:**

- The Fire Department 9<sup>th</sup> & Marion Street Station project currently has the construction RFP out for bid. There is an on-site pre-bid meeting scheduled on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with proposals due on August 24<sup>th</sup>. RFD is hopeful to have a contract ready to go before City Council by September 13<sup>th</sup> and groundbreaking on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION:**

- As of July 16<sup>th</sup>, HRC has:
  - 979 total rent and utility assistance applications were received (an addition of 3 applications since last reported).
    - 962 applications for rental assistance
      - 629 applicants were facing eviction
      - 245 applicants were not actively facing eviction
      - 88 applicants resided outside of the City but within the County.
    - 17 applications for utility assistance

#### **POLICE:**

- The Reading Police Department's multi-agency Operation Cease Fire detail on July 8<sup>th</sup> resulted in 24 additional arrests and four firearm seizures.

- RPD successfully completed a second homeless outreach operation in collaboration with the Homeless Coalition. The outreach operation focused on reaching homeless persons in City parks and playgrounds. These outreach operations will continue every other week at various locations throughout the City.
- The RPD is hosting National Night Out on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event will take place on the 500 block of Penn Street from 5pm to 8pm, with various government and community agency groups participating. This event is a fun and safe time for the community to enjoy food, music, various presentations, and get to know our first responders.
- The RPD Police Academy has moved from Alvernia's main campus to Alvernia University's Upland Center. The new location provides more office and classroom space for the Academy to utilize.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

- The Public Works Department has outfitted and properly insured a new aerial bucket truck for the City electrician to use.
- PW Sewers team has cleaned the Spring Street Storm Sewer System (the subway). The work was completed in one day, including cleaning the storm laterals and replacing a broken catch basin grate.
- PW Streets staff filled an additional 227 potholes in the month of June.
- PW Streets crews continue to assist in the success of Wacky Water Wednesdays by street sweeping all sites before the start of the events.

## CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

Monday, July 26, 2021

CITY AUDITOR

*Maria M. Rodriguez*

### Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA) – 2020

#### Audit

A copy of the 2020 audit report of the Reading Area Water Authority which is one of the Component Units of the City of Reading, was received by the office of the City Auditor on June 15, 2021 via email. And after reviewing the financial Statements, this audit report illustrates the following (see table 1):

- The **Total Net Position** which is the Total Assets/Deferred Outflow of Resources minus Total Liabilities that include Current Liabilities and Long-Term Debt, reflects an increase of \$1,875,761.
- The Authority **Total Liabilities** show a decrease of \$3,737,269.
- In 2020, The Authority has an **Operating Income** of \$3,653,656 compared to \$3,556,133 in 2019, and it ended with an increase of \$97,523.
- In March of 2020, RAWA refinanced the bonds, Series 2011, and as a result the **Interest Expense** line item was reduced to \$ 2,194,472 in 2020 from \$3,768,727 in 2019, and this was the main reason that caused **the increase of \$1,875,761 in Net Position** compared to \$598,104 in 2019.

Table 1

	2020	2019	2020 vs 2019
<b>Total Assets/Deferred Outflow of Resources</b>	95,232,756	97,094,264	<b>(1,861,508)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	78,796,115	82,533,384	<b>(3,737,269)</b>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	16,436,641	14,560,880	<b>1,875,761</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	3,653,656	3,556,133	<b>97,523</b>
<b>Increase In Net Position</b>	<b>1,875,761</b>	598,104	<b>1,277,657</b>

#### Real Estate Transfer Tax Revenue - Update as of June 30, 2021

For the month of June of the current year, the City collected \$719,042.39 in revenue for Real Estate Transfer Tax, and as of June 30, 2021, a total of \$4,122,096.93 has already been received which is 88% of total amount budgeted. For the first six months of the current year, a total of 1,283 transactions for Real Estate Transfer Tax has been completed of which 1,077 transactions were taxable and 206 were not taxable transactions. See table 2. And until now, the City has

collected \$1,048,249.64 for properties sold for more than half a million threshold. **See table 3 for details.**

**The following chart illustrates YTD revenue collected for Real Estate Transfer from 2017-2021**

	6/30/2021	6/30/2020	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	6/30/2017
January	535,849.04	323,123.52	223,920.68	293,105.03	276,076.87
February	523,300.89	511,220.85	615,116.21	204,053.26	210,173.34
March	1,178,885.61	601,103.82	266,411.11	348,937.95	297,329.36
April	717,308.73	235,765.07	548,506.44	347,097.22	581,143.64
May	447,710.27	157,245.87	441,084.11	322,871.76	313,275.46
June	719,042.39	1,464,932.00	363,997.72	350,369.72	528,760.06
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,122,096.93</b>	<b>3,293,391.13</b>	<b>2,459,036.27</b>	<b>1,866,434.94</b>	<b>2,206,758.73</b>
<b>Total Budgeted</b>	<b>4,700,000.00</b>	<b>4,200,000.00</b>	<b>3,800,000.00</b>	<b>3,350,000.00</b>	<b>2,750,000.00</b>
<b>Total % Collected</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.80</b>

**The following chart demonstrates total transactions for Real Estate Transfer Tax as of 6/30/2021**

**Table 2**

Month	Total Transactions		Taxable		Non-Taxable
January	168		149		19
February	157		135		22
March	294		239		55
April	232		198		34
May	186		158		28
June	246		198		48
<b>Total</b>	<b>1283</b>		<b>1077</b>		<b>206</b>

The table below demonstrates the # of transactions for properties sold within the threshold

**Table 3**

Property Address	Month of Sale	Sale Price		Rate - 3.5%
100 Lancaster Avenue	January	1,925,000.00		67,375.00
323 N 4 <sup>th</sup> Street	January	950,000.00		33,250.00
1800 Centre Avenue	February	5,200,000.00		182,000.00
1260 Hill RD	March	875,000.00		30,625.00
300 Lackawanna St.	March	11,387,550.00		398,564.25
1211 Carbon Street	March	575,000.00		20,125.00
601 Lancaster Avenue	April	729,000.00		25,515.00
100 Lancaster Avenue	April	3,038,439.74		106,345.39
1414 Moss Street	April	600,000.00		21,000.00
	May	0		0
Belmont Ave.	June	2,500,000.00		87,500.00
2045 Centre Ave.	June	670,000.00		23,450.00
1015 Rockland St.	June	1,500,000.00		52,500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>29,949,989.74</b>		<b>1,048,249.64</b>

### **2020 Fire Escrow Audit**

The Fire Escrow audit has been completed by the Office of the City Auditor and it was presented today at the 5pm meeting. As previously stated, the Fire Escrow account has a liability of \$766,883.41 as of December 31, 2020.



## CITY OF READING CITY COUNCIL

### Brief

**Item:** Public Art Ord & Policy  
**From:** Linda Kelleher  
City Clerk  
**Briefing No.:**  
**Date:** July 19, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Creating a Public Art Chapter in the City Code to enable the installation of short term art projects in public spaces.

**BACKGROUND:** Need identified during consideration of rainbow crosswalk for Reading Pride. Identified similar municipal programs that enable individuals, groups and organizations to apply for permission to decorate crosswalks and sidewalks, murals or banners for a 2 year period. This program does not cover formal or long-term art installations.

#### **KEY COMPONENTS:**

- Modeled after programs used in other municipalities, nationally
- Includes review by HARB and Zoning where required. Murals and banners in Historic Districts may require separate HARB approval and murals may require separate Zoning approval.
- Provides flexibility to allow the review committee to consult with art experts
- Requires applicant to have the funds to create, maintain the installation and remove the installation at the end of the two year period
- Requires applicant to seek community input and support prior to application and encourages consultation with the Berks Arts Council
- Requires application fee for paint and other supplies that will be supplied by the City to meet the City's specifications (such as anti-skid paint for crosswalks and anti-graffiti protection for murals) and to cover any services the City must provide to assist with the installation
- Prohibits advertisements, logos, pornography, anything overtly political, or anything which imitates traffic signage. The design may not include any painting of the crosswalk markings. Projects approved by the committee must be approved by Council resolution

Drafted by: City Clerk  
Referred by: Councilor Reed & Cepeda-Freytiz  
Introduced on: June 28, 2021  
Advertised on:

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING BERKS  
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CITY CODE BY ADDING NEW  
CHAPTER 433 PUBLIC ART**

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF READING CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ORDAINS AS  
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1: Amending the City Code by adding a new Chapter 433 Public Art, as follows:

**Chapter 433  
Public Art**

**§ 433-101. Purpose.** Art of all types and experiences located in public places and open to all is a vital part of a creative **place-making** project when it is joined to a larger vision for community goals and for the community itself. The purpose of this Chapter is to establish a process for the City to consider public art projects that will effectively enliven neighborhoods and create outcomes such as safety, livability, walkability, health, and economic development.

**§ 433-102. Evaluation and Approval of Public Art Applications**

A. Any person, organization or entity wishing to place any artwork installation upon public property shall submit such proposal to the City Clerk's Office.

B. An internal Public Art Review Committee shall review each proposal. The Committee shall be composed of the Historic Preservation Specialist, a City Planner, the Public Works Operations Division Manager, the City Clerk, Traffic Sergeant or his representative. The Director of Public Works shall appoint a Chairperson from the membership.

C. The Public Art Review Committee shall provide a written evaluation of each proposal based on the following factors: the suitability and appropriateness of the proposed location for the installation; the proposers' plan and ability for maintenance and upkeep of the installation; and provisions for insuring the memorial against damage, vandalism and disrepair. In addition, if the proposed location of an art installation has been subject to a master or comprehensive-planning initiative, the proposed installation should be in comport with any such valid plan. The Review Committee shall provide this written evaluation to City Council with a recommendation.



D. At its discretion, the Public Art Review Committee may request the approval of or advice of the proposed art installation from the Planning Commission.

E. Any mural, banner, or other artwork installation proposed to be located within or immediately adjacent to a designated historic or conservation district shall be subject to the advance approval of the Historic Architectural Review Board.

F. Approval of the installation shall require the approval of City Council by resolution.

#### **§ 433-103. Maintenance of Public Art**

A. It shall be the policy of the City of Reading that the maintenance and upkeep of any art installation shall be the responsibility of the person or entity placing such approved art installation on any property for a minimum of two (2) years. A plan for the care and maintenance of the artwork, including graffiti abatement, and removal of the installation at the end of the two (2) year permit period or when directed to do so by the City of Reading Public Works Director.

B. In the event an art installation falls into disrepair and is not promptly repaired by the person or entity that installed it, the Director of Public Works, the City may provide written notice ordering the person or entity to remove the installation within 30 days. If the person or entity fails to remove the art installation or agree to a schedule for the removal of the artwork, approval of which is in the City's sole discretion, at the end of the two (2) year permit period or within the 30-day period on order of the Public Works Director, the City shall remove the installation at the person or entity's expense.

C. The Public Art Review Committee shall have purview over existing art installations and may promulgate policies and programs that improve this program with little or no public expense.

D. Vandalism to any art installation or the grounds that the installation sits on shall be subject to enforcement under the PA Crimes Code 18 Pa. C.S. §3304 Criminal Mischief and §3307 Institutional Vandalism.

E. The owner of the artwork installation shall indemnify the City, its officials, officers, employees and/or agents, from and against any and all third party claims related to the artwork installation.

**SECTION 2.** All ordinances or resolutions or parts of ordinances or resolutions insofar as they are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and rescinded.

**SECTION 3.** In the event any provision, section, sentence, clause or part of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sections, sentences, clauses or parts of this Ordinance; it being the intent of the City of Reading that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be and shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4.** This Ordinance shall become effective as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**DULY ORDAINED AND ENACTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by the Council of the City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by the Mayor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by: City Clerk/ Solicitor

Referred by:  
Introduced on: July 11, 2021  
Advertised on: July 19, 2021

**BILL \_\_\_\_\_-2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 5 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, PART 208 COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE PROCEDURES BY DEFINING A QUORUM AND ALLOWING REMOTE PARTICIPATION

**THE CITY OF READING CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Amending City Code Chapter 5 Administrative Code, Part 208 Council Rules of Procedure by defining a quorum and allowing remote participation as follows:

**§ 5-208. Rules of procedure.**

[Amended 4-9-2001 by Ord. No. 7-2001; 3-8-2010 by Ord. No. 7-2010]

- A. The standard reference of Council shall be Robert's Rules unless not specifically provided for by the Rules of Procedure herein.

*1. Quorum – a quorum of Council shall be four (4) members present for the conduct of business. Council members participating by telecommunications device shall be counted to constitute a quorum.*

*(a) The telecommunication device used permits the member or members of council not physically present at the meeting to:*

*(i) speak to and hear the comments and votes, if any, of the members of council who are physically present, as well as other members of council who may not be physically present and are also using a telecommunication device to participate in the meeting; and*

*(ii) speak to and hear the comments of the public who are present at the meeting.*

*(b) The telecommunication device used permits the members of council and the members of the public who are present at the meeting **or participating remotely** to speak to and hear the comments and the vote, if any, of the member or members of council who are not present at the meeting.*

*(c) Physical absence of a council member. Council members can choose to participate remotely for four (4) regular business meetings per year. The Council President can authorize additional remote participation at regular business meetings by telecommunication device for one or more of the following reasons:*

- (i) illness or disability of the member of council;*
- (ii) care for the ill or ~~newborn~~ child in the member's immediate family;*
- (iii) emergency or inclement weather; and*
- (iv) family or business travel; and*
- (v) schedule conflicts*

*(d) There is no limit on Council's ability to participate remotely in Committee meetings, Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings, and other sessions that are held.*

*(e) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the protections and prohibitions contained in any law or regulation relating to the rights of the disabled.*

B. Business is conducted by acting on motions. Once a matter has been moved and seconded, no other matter shall be taken up until the main issue is disposed of.

(1) Rule No. 1. Disclosure of interest. A member who has personal or private interest in any question, measure, bill proposed or pending before the Council shall disclose that fact to Council and shall not vote thereon. If such interested person shall vote without disclosing his interest in such question, measure or bill, Council may avoid the enactment or transaction or not, as it deems best.

(2) Rule No. 2. Proposed amendments to these rules. Amendments to these rules must be presented in writing at a nonlegislative meeting of the Council held at least one week prior to the date when the same are to be finally considered. Amendments shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of the majority of all members of Council.

(3) Rule No. 3. Suspension of rules. These rules may be suspended by the affirmative vote of the majority of all members of Council present, but the suspension shall not extend beyond the adjournment. No rule of Council, which is also subject of legislative enactment, shall be suspended.

(4) Rule No. 4. Legislation.

(a) No rule, matter, bill or resolution shall be considered by Council unless a written memorandum, brief, resolution or bill is delivered to the City Clerk by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday preceding the meeting where the matter or legislation is to be considered, introduced or enacted/adopted by Council. The City Clerk shall furnish to

the Mayor and all members of Council copies of all proposed resolutions and ordinances by posting the agendas on the website. **[Amended 10-28-2013 by Ord. No. 51-2013]**

(b) Legislation referred to or being considered by a Council Committee must be returned to the full body of Council for consideration with either a positive or negative recommendation. If the legislation is not returned in this manner, any three Council members may request that the full body, at a regular business meeting, consider the legislation.

(5) Rule No. 5. Voting.

(a) The vote upon any motion, resolution or ordinance will be taken by roll call. The City Clerk will clarify by reading aloud the content of the parliamentary motion, amendment, of the award of contract, ordinance or resolution before the roll call is taken.

(b) The yeas and nays of each Councilperson will be entered into the minutes. On the call of yeas and nays, no member shall be excused from voting as such, unless by the consent of the Council and the Solicitor, or if a bona fide conflict of interest exists as defined in Part 10, Code of Ethics, or other provisions of general law. Unless a member of Council is so excused or prevented from voting, the failure to vote shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

(c) The City Clerk will rotate the order in which the roll is called after every vote with the exception of amendments to the main question.

(6) Rule No. 6. Duties of the presiding officer. The President of Council shall decide all questions subject to appeal by any two members of Council and have general supervision of the meeting. He shall determine the appropriate committee to which legislation and other matters shall be referred. The President of Council shall be the designated representative of the body and shall communicate the intentions of Council, with respect to professional service, contracts, legislative action and other matters, as needed.

(7) Rule No. 7. Reconsideration. A motion to reconsider a question shall be entertained only at the next legislative meeting following the one at which vote was taken. No second motion to reconsider the same motion shall be entertained.

(8) Rule No. 8. Motions to be entertained.

(a) All motions must be moved and seconded. When a question (or main motion) is under consideration, no motion shall be entertained except for:

- [1] Adjournment.
- [2] Previous question (2/3 vote).
- [3] Lay on the table.
- [4] To postpone.

- [5] To commit.
- [6] To amend.
- [7] End debate.
- [8] Call for the question.

(b) These questions have preference in the order given. The first three must be decided without debate. A motion to adjourn is always in order when the main question has been ordered put, when a member has the floor, or during a call of the yeas and nays.

(c) Motions for the previous questions to postpone or commit shall preclude amendment or debate upon the original subject. Motion to postpone shall preclude commitment.

(9) Rule No. 9. Rules of debate.

(a) Prior to debate, a bill or resolution must be placed on the table by a first and second motion of the body. The sponsor of the bill or the referring committee will have the first opportunity to make a statement. After which, each member of Council shall be entitled to make one statement on the proposed legislation. President of Council may also invite the Mayor and Managing Director to comment. All first statements shall be no longer than three minutes in length.

(b) Second statements or comments shall be entertained after each member present has been given the opportunity to speak one time and shall be no longer than two minutes in length. In the event no other Council member wishes to address the issue and no one moves to end debate or call for the question, debate will be allowed to continue. In general, it is expected that the body will make their remarks concise and focused on matter or issue proposed. Amendments or statements not relating to the question shall not be made. All such matters not relating to agenda items will be entertained after the Council business portion of the agenda.

(c) President of Council or presiding officer may, at his discretion, choose to limit debate time on each agenda item to 10 minutes, as stated in Roberts' Rules of Order.

(d) Members wishing to speak shall request recognition from the presiding officer, at which time other Council members shall not engage in dialogue or interrupt except for the following:

- [1] Call for the orders of the day (when they are not being conformed to).
- [2] Raising a question of privilege.
- [3] Point of order (calling the member who has the floor to order or calling his attention to the fact that he is not observing the rules).
- [4] Call for a separate vote on one or more subjects that are included in a single motion.

[5] Request or inquiry that requires an immediate response.

C. The body may override the presiding officer's decision on any procedural rule through the passage of a motion.

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by the Mayor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by: City Clerk

Referred by:

Introduced on: July 12, 2021

Advertised on: July 19, 2021

**BILL \_\_\_\_\_-2021**  
**AN ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 5 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,  
PART 209 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY INCLUDING WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT  
AT REGULAR MEETINGS, SPECIAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

**THE CITY OF READING CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Amending City Code Chapter 5 Administrative Code, Part 2 Public Participation by including written public comment at Regular Meetings, Special Meetings and Public Hearings, as follows:

**§ 5-209. Public participation.**

[Amended 3-23-1998 by Ord. No. 10-1998; 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 29-2002; 1-26-2004 by Ord. No. 1-2004; 1-23-2006 by Ord. No. 6-2006; 1-23-2012 by Ord. No. 6-2012; 4-9-2012 by Ord. No. 43-2012; 8-26-2013 by Ord. No. 35-2013; 1-27-2014 by Ord. No. 6-2014; 1-27-2016 by Ord. No. 2-2016]

These rules are intended to promote an orderly system of public comment, to give every person an opportunity to be heard, and to ensure that no individual is embarrassed by exercising his right of free speech. Public comment is permitted at the regular meetings of Council which occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Public comment is not permitted at the City Council work sessions, committee meetings or Committee of the Whole meetings.

A. Regular meetings. Citizens desiring to address the Council at its regular meetings may do so by providing notice verbally or in writing by providing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed to the City Clerk any time before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting or by printing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed on a sign-up sheet found on the podium in Council Chambers between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting. ***Citizens may also choose to submit written public comment via letter or email by sending a letter or email clearly marked “public comment” by 4 pm on the day of the meeting.***

B. Special meetings. Citizens desiring to address the Council at its special meeting may do so by providing notice verbally or in writing by providing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed to the City Clerk any time before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting or by printing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed on a sign-up sheet found on the podium in Council Chambers before the special meeting is called to order. ***Citizens may also choose to submit***



***written public comment via letter or email by sending a letter or email clearly marked “public comment” by 4 pm on the day of the meeting.***

C. All remarks must be directed to Council as a body and not to any Council member or public or elected official in attendance. Any person making personally offensive or impertinent remarks or who shall become unruly while addressing Council may be called to order by the Presiding Officer, and may be barred from speaking before Council, unless permission to continue speaking is granted by a majority vote of Council.

D. Any person making personally offensive or impertinent remarks or who shall become unruly while addressing the Council may be called to order by the Presiding Officer, and may be barred from speaking before the Council unless permission to continue to speak is granted by a majority vote of the Council.

E. All comments by the public shall be made from the speaker's podium. No comments shall be made from any other location except the podium, and anyone making "out of order" comments may be subject to removal. There will be no demonstration at the conclusion of anyone's presentation.

F. Citizens may not ask questions of Council member or other elected or public official in attendance. However, Council members, elected or public officials may make a statement in response to comments made by citizens at the conclusion of the public comment period.

G. Public hearings. Citizens desiring to address the Council at its public hearing may do so by providing notice verbally or in writing by providing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed to the City Clerk any time before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled hearing. Any person who fails to sign in with the City Clerk shall not be permitted to speak until all those who signed in have done so. Those testifying must limit their comments to three minutes. No person who has previously spoken during the public hearing on a particular item may speak again unless all other persons desiring to give testimony at the public hearing have spoken. A person speaking for a second time shall limit his comments to not more than one minute. ***Citizens may also choose to submit written public comment via letter or email by sending a letter or email clearly marked “public comment” by 4 pm on the day of the meeting.***

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

Drafted by	Pub Works
Sponsored by/Referred by	Interim PW Director
Introduced on	July 12, 2021
Advertised on	July 19, 2021

**B I L L N O. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2021**  
**A N O R D I N A N C E**

**PROVIDING FOR A NO-PARKING ZONE IN THE 200 BLOCK OF CHESTNUT STREET,  
IN THE CITY OF READING**

**THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The City of Reading agrees to restrict parking by establishing a No-Parking zone to be located on the north side of the 200 block of Chestnut Street across from the Remcon Plastics, Inc. driveway entrance located at 208 Chestnut Street. The zone shall be approximately 175 feet long, as shown on the attached plan labeled Exhibit "A". The zone is depicted as requested by Remcon Plastics for the purpose of improving the traffic safety conditions on Chestnut Street when large trucks access the Remcon driveway.

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by the Mayor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Exhibit "A"  
No Parking Zone, 200 block of Chestnut Street, north side

Drafted by: City Clerk  
Referred by: City Council  
Introduced on: July 12, 2021  
Advertised on: July 19, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ 2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE CITY VOTERS ON THE 2021 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT WHICH WOULD AMEND THE CITY OF READING HOME RULE CHARTER BY ELIMINATING CHARTER SECTION §1110 RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1110 of the City of Reading Home Rule entitled Recall of Elected Officials, provides a process to remove an elected official from office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has confirmed that the sole means for the removal of elected officers is set forth in Article VI, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the removal process established by Section 1110 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter is not consistent with the provisions of Article VI, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place the following referendum question to voters of the City of Reading on the 2021 general election ballot:

**Home Rule Charter § 1110. Recall of Elected Officials**

“Shall Section 1110 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be eliminated as it is inconsistent with the removal provisions of Article VI, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution?”

### Simple Explanation

Subsequent to the approval of the City Charter, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared that the sole means by which elected officials can be removed is set forth in Article VI, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. This referendum seeks to remove the Section 1110 because it is not consistent with the Pennsylvania Constitution.

**SECTION 2.** If approved by the electorate, Home Rule Charter Section 1110 will be removed from the Charter with the Section number reserved.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by Mayor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by: City Clerk  
Referred by: City Council  
Introduced on: July 12, 2021  
Advertised on: July 19, 2021

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE CITY VOTERS ON THE 2021 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT WHICH WOULD AMEND THE CITY OF READING HOME RULE CHARTER BY CORRECTING CHARTER SECTION §1204 CHARTER AMENDMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1204.a of the City of Reading Home Rule entitled Charter Amendments incorrectly states that the citizen initiative process in the Charter can be utilized to propose Charter amendments to the electorate; and

**WHEREAS**, correcting Section 1204.a by replacing the incorrect language with the correct citation to State Statute, Title 53, Subpart E Home Rule and Optional Plan, Chapter 29, Subchapter C Amendment of Existing Charter or Optional Plan through the County Board of Elections; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 1204.c of the City of Reading Home Rule entitled Charter Amendments incorrectly states that the Charter amendments can be made by the Charter Review Commission through the citizen initiative process in the Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, striking Section 1204.c as the Commission would undertake the procedure in the corrected 1204.a or through 1204.d.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place the following referendum question to voters of the City of Reading on the 2021 general election ballot:

**Home Rule Charter § 1204.a. Charter Amendment**

“Shall Section 1204 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be corrected by with the proper citations to State Statute Title 53, Subchapter C Amendment of Existing Charter

or Optional Plan 9 through the County Board of Elections and to comply with the Charter's requirements?"

### **Simple Explanation**

Section 1204.a of the Home Rule Charter incorrectly states that citizens can amend the Home Rule Charter through the initiative process set out in Chapter 11 of the Charter; however, citizen initiated Charter amendments must go through the County Board of Elections by the process defined in State Statute Title 53, Subpart E Home Rule and Optional Plan, Chapter 29.

Section 1204.c of the Home Rule Charter also incorrectly states that the Charter Review Commission can amend the Home Rule Charter through the initiative process set of in Chapter 11 of the Charter; however the Commission has the option to amend the Charter via Charter Section 1203 or by the process defined in 1204.a as per State Statute Title 53, Subpart E Home Rule and Optional Plan, Chapter 29. Therefore 1204.c should be eliminated.

**SECTION 2.** If approved by the electorate, Home Rule Charter Section 1204.a will be corrected as follows:

#### **§ 1204. Amendments.**

The Charter shall be amended by:

- (a) The citizens of the City through the Berks County Board of Elections and the process defined in State Statute Title 53, Subpart E Home Rule and Optional Plan, Chapter 29.
- (b) City Council, through the enactment of an ordinance, to refer referenda to the Berks County Board of Elections; or
- (c) Proposed amendments by a Charter Review Commission being placed on the ballot in accordance with § [1203](#) of this Charter.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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President of Council

Attest:

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City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by Mayor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Drafted by: City Clerk  
Referred by: Mayor  
Introduced on: July 12, 2021  
Advertised on: N/A

**BILL \_\_\_\_-2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 23 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, PART 12 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, SECTION 23-1201 AUTHORIZATION BY REPLACING THE DID CHAIR WITH THE CITY OF READING DESIGNATED DOWNTOWN COORDINATOR

**THE CITY OF READING CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Amending City Code Chapter 23 Boards and Commissions Part 1201 Downtown Revitalization Public Private Partnership, Section 23-1201 Authorization, as follows:

**Part 12**

Downtown Revitalization Public Private Partnership <sup>18</sup>

[Adopted 7-23-2018 by Ord. No. 41-2018]

**18. Former Chapter 23, Part 12, Main Street Program Board, repealed by Ord. No. 40-2018, adopted 7-23-2018.**

**§ 23-1201. Authorization.**

[Amended 10-8-2018 by Ord. No. 66-2018]

The City Council recognizes the need to increase the economic momentum in the Central Business District of the City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania (the "City") in and around Penn Street. The City desires to partner with the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance (GRCA) and use the resources and ability of the GRCA to administer an economic development strategy and initiatives including but not limited to the Main Street Program that will 1) promote a sense of community and unified purpose, 2) assure the historic continuity of the City's architectural heritage, 3) improve the image and perception of the City to residents and visitors and 4) strengthen economic rejuvenation of property and commerce for the benefit of all.

The Downtown Revitalization Public Private Partnership is hereby authorized and shall consist of nine voting members, serving voluntarily, to serve four year staggered terms, as follows:

- A member of City Council, initially serving a two year term, selected and appointed by City Council
- A representative of the Mayor's administration, initially serving a two year term, selected and appointed by the Mayor
- A representative of a large business, initially serving a four year term, selected and appointed by City Council
- A representative of a small business, initially serving a four year term, selected and appointed by the Mayor
- Two representatives from private entities, initially serving three and four year terms respectively, selected and appointed by the GRCA
- One citizen, who must be a City resident who is not employed, appointed or elected to any government position, initially serving a three year term, selected and appointed by the Mayor
- ~~The Chairman of the Downtown Improvement District Board of Directors~~ *The City Of Reading Designated Downtown Coordinator*
- The Executive Director of Downtown Revitalization, who shall be employed by the GRCA

Each appointing entity shall have the ability to select and appoint an alternate member who shall have the same term as the full member to attend meetings and participate in the member's absence.

Any appointment made after the effective date of the October 8, 2018 amendment that does not comply with any of the requirements and conditions as stated herein shall be considered null and void.

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted July \_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Drafted by: City Clerk  
Referred by: City Council  
Introduced on: July 12, 2021  
Advertised on: N/A

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_2021  
AN ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE CITY VOTERS ON THE 2021 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT WHICH WOULD AMEND THE CITY OF READING HOME RULE CHARTER BY ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE CITY'S PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO BE AN ENGINEER.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 606(a) of the City of Reading Home Rule entitled Director of Public Works/City Engineer to have a director who is a professional civil engineer registered in Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, in November of 2009, the City of Reading was designated as financially distressed by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) according to the criteria in the Municipalities Financial Recover Act (Act 47 of 1987); and

**WHEREAS**, the City has experienced difficulty filling senior positions where specialized, professional expertise is required; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Reading remains in financially distressed status and desires to exit the Act 47 Recovery Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Act 47 Recovery Coordinator cited the difficulty the City has had in filling key vacancies as leading to less capacity in critical areas and diminished effectiveness for the City organization overall.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place the following referendum question to voters of the City of Reading on the 2021 general election ballot:

**Home Rule Charter § 606. Department of Public Works/City Engineer.**

“Shall Section 606(a) of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to eliminate the requirement for the Public Works Director to be a registered civil engineer?”

**Simple Explanation**

The current City Charter requires the City’s Public Works Director to be a professional civil engineer registered in Pennsylvania, who shall perform the duties required through the Administrative Code or other action, or as may be required of a City Engineer by general law. The proposed amendment would repeal the requirement for the Public Works Director to be a registered engineer.

**SECTION 2.** In the proposed amendment, the language of Charter Section 401(a) shall be deleted and replaced as follows:

**§ 606. Department of Public Works.**

(a) The Department of Public Works is mandated by this Charter. The Mayor shall appoint and fix the compensation of the head of the Department of Public Works/. He shall perform the duties required through the Administrative Code or other action, or as may be required by general law.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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President of Council

Attest:

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City Clerk

Drafted by  
Sponsored by/Referred by  
Introduced on  
Advertised on

City Clerk  
City Council  
July 26, 2021  
N/A

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_-2021

### COMMITTING \$3,000,000 TO THE CAPITAL NEEDS OF THE CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY FOR THE SANTANDER ARENA AND THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**WHEREAS,** After over forty years of planning, community meetings and legal challenges, the Convention Center Authority was created by the City of Reading and the County of Berks to oversee the operation of the convention center on June 20, 1996; and

**WHEREAS,** The convention center is a 7,160-seat multi-purpose arena which opened in September 2001 on the former site of the Astor Theater; one of several grand movie and theater palaces built in Reading in the early 20th century. Closed in 1975, the theater sat vacant for over two decades. In 1998, the Astor was demolished to make room for the Santander Arena. Early in construction, steps were taken to retain mementos of the Astor, including its ornate Art Deco chandelier and gates. These are on display and in use inside the arena corridors, providing visitors insight into the ambience of the former movie house; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2000 the Convention Center Authority purchased the Rajah Theatre, located on North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, which had operated as a dual purpose public theatre and temple for the masons in the city of Reading since 1922 and the Authority performed a \$7,000,000 renovation to the theatre with special care to retain the gorgeous original features in this historic building to create the Performing Arts Center; and

**WHEREAS,** The Convention Center Authority has worked diligently over the past 20 years to build and manage facilities that attract audiences from across the region making these facilities a critical economic driver for Reading and Berks County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY  
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The foregoing “WHEREAS” recitals are hereby ratified as being true and correct and incorporated herein.

**Section 2.** The City of Reading recognizes that the Santander Convention Center and Performing Arts Center are major local economic drivers that need to remain in the City of Reading and receive improvements and upgrades so the facilities continue to attract audiences from across the region.

**Section 3.** The City of Reading recognizes that COVID-19 shuttered the doors of these facilities for a year and a half, which has had a devastating effect on the ability of the Convention Center Authority to make the require improvements to these facilities.

**Section 4.** The City of Reading commits \$3,000,000 to the capital needs of the Convention Center Authority for the Santander Arena and the Performing Arts Center

**Section 5.** Effective immediately.

Adopted by Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Waltman, President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk

Drafted by Deputy City Clerk  
Sponsored by/Referred by Council Nominations and Appointments Committee

## **R E S O L U T I O N N O. \_\_\_\_\_ -2021**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS  
FOLLOWS:

Appointing Michael McDevitt, to the Historical Architectural Review  
Committee with a term ending July 26, 2026.

Adopted by Council July 26, 2021

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President of Council

Attest:

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Linda A. Kelleher  
City Clerk

Drafted by  
Sponsored by/Referred by

Deputy City Clerk  
Council Nominations and Appointments Committee

## **R E S O L U T I O N NO. \_\_\_\_\_ -2021**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS  
FOLLOWS:

Appointing Pamela Gockley to the Shade Tree Commission with a term  
ending August 31, 2026.

Adopted by Council July 26, 2021

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President of Council

Attest:

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Linda A. Kelleher  
City Clerk